

**Minutes**  
**Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board**  
**Bassett Branch Library**  
**January 18, 2023**

Board members Rebecca Adcock, Margaret Caldwell, Felita Claybrooks, Rives Coleman, Betsy Haskins, Lora Mahaffey, Yluelhaldi Rose, Lewis Turner, and Sherry Vestal attended.

Also attending were Director Rick Ward, Administrative Assistant George Gutshall, and Bassett Branch Manager Karen Barley.

All board members were in attendance.

**Call to Order:**

Board Chair Margaret Caldwell called the meeting to order at 12:00 and welcomed those in attendance.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Collinsville were presented. Sherry Vestal moved that the minutes be approved, Lora Mahaffey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

George Gutshall reviewed the library's financial report.

He reported that our revenue received a boost with donations from the Stanley Foundation, Dorothy Wade Trust, Carol Stanley Living Trust, and the Friends of the Library. We also received the ARPA grant funds for the new privacy pods that are at Martinsville and Patrick.

He noted that our expenses increased due to a maintenance contract for the microfilm reader, the Christmas Cheer food program, and a parent/child workstation specially constructed by Burr Fox for the Martinsville children's room.

On a motion by Sherry Vestal, seconded by Felita Claybrooks, the financial report was approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

Margaret Caldwell, reporting for the Marketing Committee, said that she will speak on February 6<sup>th</sup> to the First Baptist Church Women's group about library services and the Bassett Expansion.

**Old Business:**

Karen Barley reported that she had been contacted by DeWitt House from the Harvest Foundation about our upcoming press conference. He said that the foundation would soon meet to discuss approving our application for a grant to help with the Bassett expansion and that he thought it would be a good idea to postpone the announcement until after that has happened. After consulting with the Director and the co-chairs of the Steering Committee, it was decided to postpone the press conference to March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. In this way, if the grant is approved, we can say we have the support of the Harvest Foundation.

Margaret Caldwell reported that Delegate Les Adams had submitted a budget amendment to the General Assembly session to try and get us funding from the state to supplement the Bassett Expansion Project. She has asked for \$500,000 though we would be glad to get a lesser amount.

**New Business:**

Board Chair Margaret Caldwell asked that all board members notify her of which board committees they would be willing to serve on and also notify her of available dates in February or early March they would be available for a board retreat to discuss the five-year plan and other issues concerning the library system.

**Friends Report:**

Lewis Turner reported the Friends next book sale will be February 17<sup>th</sup> for members and February 18<sup>th</sup> for the public.

**Director's Agenda:**

Director Ward referred the board to the printed director's report.

**Adjournment:**

Margaret Caldwell moved that the meeting be adjourned at 1:02, Rives Coleman seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Recorder  
Rick Ward

Lora Mahaffey  
Secretary